

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 07893 052217Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 7893

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, OAS, UN, MX

SUBJECT: ORFILA/ECHEVERRIA AND THE UN CANDIDACY

REF: MEXICO 7882 (NOTAL)

1. OAS SEC GEN ORFILA HAS VERY SKILLFULLY USED ECHEVERRIA'S UN ASPIRATIONS TO HIS OWN ADVANTAGE. WE RECALL THAT A FEW WEEKS AGO WHILE HIMSELF PAYING A VISIT TO THE UN, ORFILA MADE WARM DECLARATIONS OF SUPPORT FOR ECHEVERRIA'S CANDIDACY. THIS PLUS ORFILA'S SKILL IN HANDLING PUBLIC RELATIONS IN REGARD TO HIS OWN SUCCESSFUL OAS CAMPAIGN, HIS CLOSE CONNECTIONS WITH AGUIRRE AND DITARIO DE LAS AMERICAS" WITH ARI MOLEON OF AP AND WITH OTHER PUBLIC OPINION MOLDERS BOTH IN AND OUT OF THE KS HAVE NOT BEEN LOST UPON ECHEVERRIA AND THOSE AROUND HIM.

2. I UNDERSTAND THAT IN A DISCUSSION WITH ORFILA, ECHEVERRIA MADE NO SECRET OF HIS "WILLINGNESS" TO BECOME UN SECRETARY GENERAL, WHILE MAINTAINING, PERHAPS AS A FACE-SAVING DESIGN, THAT IT WOULD NATURALLY BE BENEATH HIS DIGNITY AND THAT OF MEXICO TO CAMPAIGN PERSONALLY IN ANY WAY FOR SUCH A POSITION.

3. ECHEVERRIA SAID NICE THINGS ABOUT WALDHEIM AND THE POSSIBILITY OF
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PAGE 02 MEXICO 07893 052217Z

A SECOND TERM BUT THEN HINTED

OPENLY AT THE POSSIBILITY OF A CHINESE VETO.

4. SIMILARLY FAUSTO ZAPATA, ECHEVERRIA'S PRINCIPAL PUBLIC RELATIONS MAN AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF PRESIDENCY, HAS BEEN WOODED WITH THE FUTURE PROSPECTS OF IMPORTANT POSITIONS IN THE PUBLIC RELATIONS FIELD IN THE UN SYSTEM OR AT THE VERY LEAST WITH OAS. I UNDERSTAND ZAPATA IS TEMPTED FOR THE FUTURE BUT HAS SAID THAT HE ALSO HAS DOMESTIC POLITICAL ASPIRATIONS, (GOVERNOR OF HIS NATIVE STATE) MIGHT WORK FOR ECHEVERRIA ON HIS RETIREMENT OR MIGHT EVEN WORK FOR NEXT PRESIDENT OF MEXICO AND SAID HE WOULD NOT KNOW HIS OWN PLANS UNTIL DECEMBER OR JANUARY.

5. UNDOUBTEDLY ORFILA AND HIS RETINUE HAVE SKILLFULLY HANDLED ECHEVERRIA AND HAVE TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF THE FACT THAT THE MEXICANS ARE IN A PARTICULARLY SELF SEEKING MOOD NOW THAT THE PRESIDENTIAL TERM IS RUNNING INTO ITS LAST PHASE.
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